

Southwest BID

Wilbur Wright Federal Building (FAA)

Jersey Barrier Murals

Request for Qualifications

Closing Date: January 22, 2025

Project Overview

The Southwest BID (SWBID) is seeking artists to create unique designs for murals on the concrete jersey barriers around the Wilbur Wright Federal Building in Southwest DC.

The Wilbur Wright Federal Building houses the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It is directly across Independence Avenue from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum—the 5th most visited museum in the United States, attracting almost 2 million visitors annually. The 85 jersey barriers wrap the property between the building and the public sidewalk. In addition to the museum visitors and tourists, the site will be visible to many office workers and DC residents.

This will be a two-step application process. First, artists will submit qualifications. Then, a select group of applicants will be invited to submit proposals. The selected applicants will receive a \$500 stipend for their time.

The winning artist will receive a \$7500 stipend for installing the work.

About the Southwest Business Improvement District

Perfectly positioned just south of the National Mall and bordered by the Washington Channel and South Capitol Street, Southwest DC is home to world-class museums, The Wharf, federal offices, performance venues, local purveyors, and award-winning restaurants. A proud, tight-knit, diverse neighborhood is the heart of this unique community, and we're grateful to be a part of it.

The SWBID is guided by an essential truth: people make places, and places make people. We understand that the true source of collective prosperity is an empowered community that nurtures and centers neighborhood voices, which in turn inspires and instills people with their own agency.

In all of our initiatives we honor our essential connections — co-creating a healthy, prosperous Southwest for all.

Project Goals and Design Requirements

- Install visually striking mural designs to beautify the concrete jersey barriers in highly visible areas.
- Artists' time and designs should reflect the budget. Simple designs and artwork on alternating or select jersey barriers are permitted to stay aligned with the budget but should maintain the project's impact.
- The priority of the design should be on Independence Ave.
- The art may be representational or abstract but may not contain advertising, religious art, sexual content, negative imagery, or convey political partisanship.
- Artwork should be original and reflective of the location and the community.
- Artwork must not include any form of advertisement, logos, or copyright-protected images.
- SWBID and GSA reserve the right to work with artists to refine selected artwork

Site Description

The site's physical address is 600 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC.

The Federal Aviation Administration headquarters was constructed in the 1960s to house NASA and the FAA, both of which were experiencing rapid growth. In 2004, the building was named in honor of flight pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright.

There are 85 jersey barriers surrounding the FAA building that will be the canvas for the artwork. The priority area along Independence Avenue is directly across from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and is visible to many tourists, commuters, and residents.

Across the street to the east is the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. To the southwest is the entrance to the L'Enfant Metro station. Many office buildings and the VRE L'Enfant Plaza station are adjacent.

With all of these popular landmarks directly surrounding this location, there will be lots of foot and vehicular traffic adjacent to the artwork.

Each barrier is 143" w x 32" h (about 34" h with the indentation of the barrier).

A map of the location with the barrier count is below. See appendix for site photos. [Link to zoomable map here.](#)



Application Process

Please [complete the Google form](#) and attach all additional documents as ONE PDF. If you cannot upload your attachment, please email it to jhimmelrich@swbid.org.

Phase 1 - Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

We request that artists submit a portfolio of work to indicate interest in the project and share their qualifications. A panel of stakeholders will review the applications and then select a group of 3-5 finalists to move forward to phase 2.

Fill out the [Google form](#) with the following (link to form: <https://forms.gle/ETQGu73G8dP67rz98>)

- Contact information, including name, email, phone, and social media handles
- Single PDF of the following application materials:
 - Letter of interest and intent stating vision for the project, expression of interest, and previous experience (500 words max)
 - Resume of lead artist and other participating members
 - Artist's portfolio of similar work samples with photos, roles, budget, and clients. Please provide 4-6 related projects. If you are a new artist with less experience, please indicate that in your letter of interest and provide a sample of any relevant work.

*Artists may submit up to two designs in the application.

Phase 2 - Request for Proposals (RFP)

Once finalists are selected, they should submit site-specific, detailed renderings of the mural artwork. We will select one artist from this group to install the murals.

Single PDF that includes the following.

- Detailed renderings of the artwork (minimum of two images)
- Budget: including artist fee, supplies, labor
- Timeline indicating all steps of the project, including installation

Timeline

Phase 1

- January 22 - RFQ applications due by 5 pm
- February 5 - Finalists announced

Phase 2

- March 10 - Finalists submit proposed artwork
- March 21 - Artist selection is announced
- March 21-April 30 - Artist works with SWBID and GSA to refine any designs, get necessary approvals
- May - Artist installs designs

Budget

Artists selected to submit proposals for phase 2 will receive a \$500 stipend for their time.

The winning artist will receive a \$7500 stipend for installing the work. This includes artist fees, installation, materials, designs, and all other costs associated with this project.

Review Criteria

A review committee of project stakeholders will select artists based on the criteria below:

- **Intent:** the letter of interest should be relevant and should clearly explain the interest in the project
- **Artistic content:** showcases high-quality artwork and designs, exhibits creativity in previous work
- **Capacity:** understanding of project goals, purpose, and budget; experience with related projects
- **Connection to community:** reflective of the site and neighborhood
- Priority will be given to DC-based artists in the event of identical scoring

Terms and Conditions and Publicity

Artists can submit up to two designs.

GSA and SWBID have the right to work with the artist to make adjustments to the winning designs.

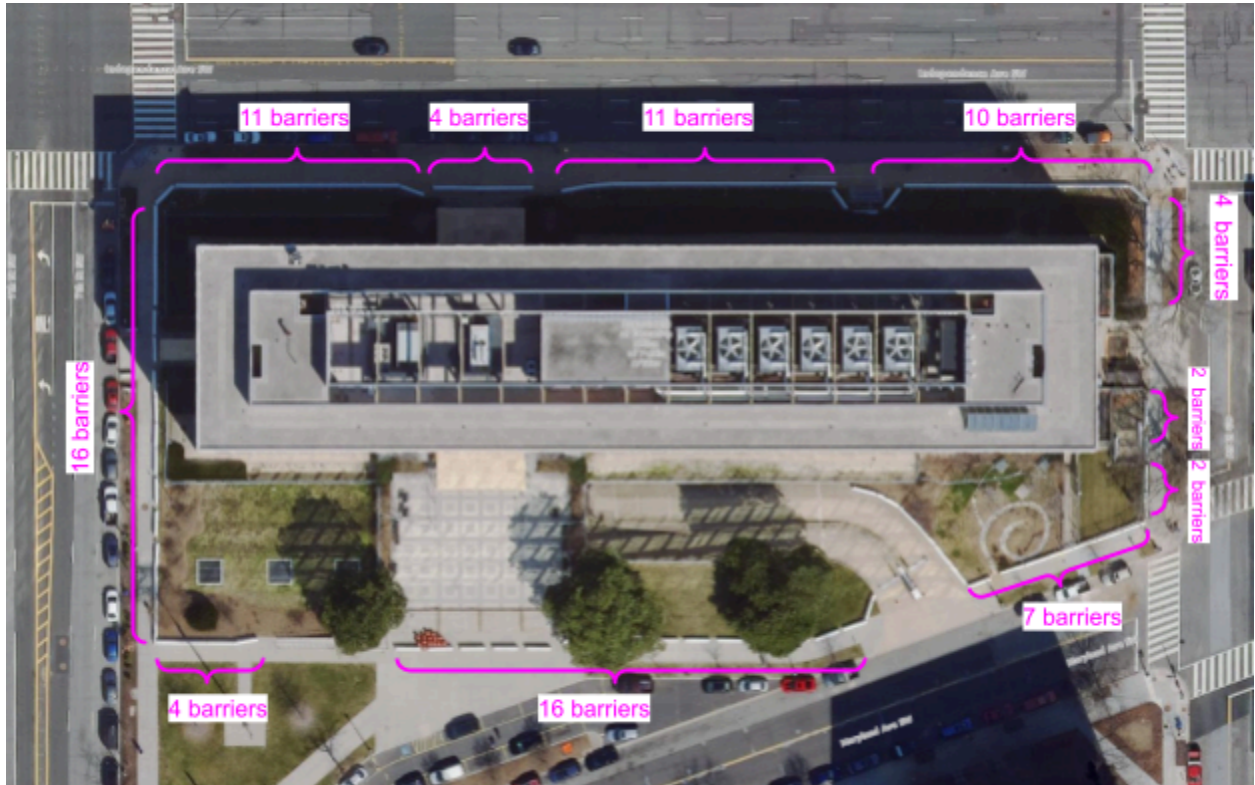
SWBID reserves the right to use photos of the work in marketing and promotional materials, crediting the artist. All copyrights remain with the artist.

A weather-proof plaque with pertinent information and artist recognition may be installed.

For questions, please contact Jessie Himmelrich (jhimmelrich@swbid.org).

Appendix

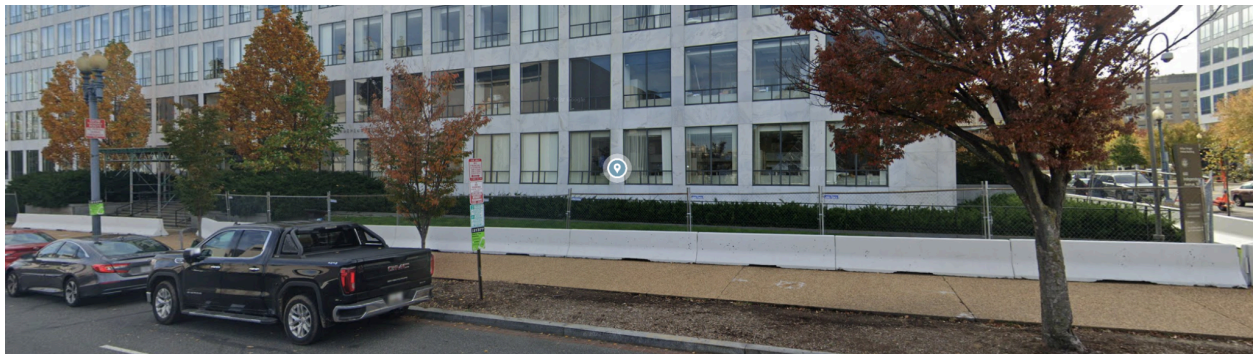
[ADDITIONAL PHOTOS HERE](#)



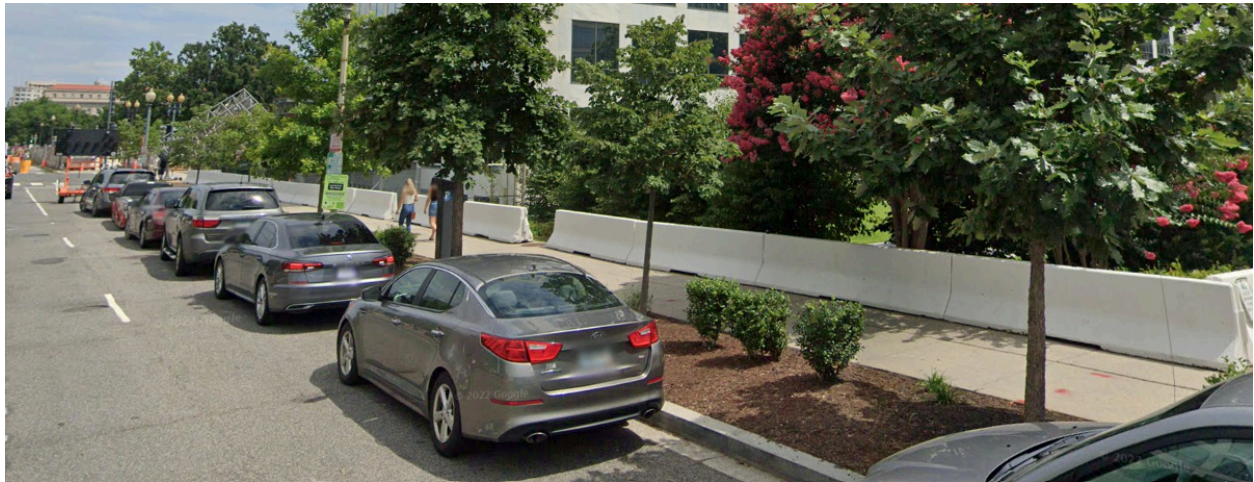
(Independence Ave.)



(Independence Ave.)



(Independence Ave.)



(7th Street)



(6th Street)



(Maryland Ave)